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It's all in the Money Magazine TODAY

Arab League may decide fate of economic summit

DAVID MAKOVSKY

THE fate of the Cairo regional economic summit scheduled for November may be determined at an Arab League meeting of foreign ministers in the Egyptian capital this Saturday, Israeli officials and Western diplomats say.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has indicated that Cairo would cancel the conference unless the government advances the peace process with the Palestinians. Arab officials say this means an IDF pullback in Hebron.

Sources say Mubarak recently told visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda that a decision on the fate of the summit would wait until the Arab League foreign ministers' meeting, but he was dissatisfied with the pace of the peace process.

In Jerusalem, Israeli officials expressed concern over Egypt apparently turning over its decision on whether to hold the summit to the Arab League.

"This is a terrible idea as it gives countries like Syria, Lebanon, Sudan, and Libya a say in whether a conference — which they would not attend in any event — is held. Even if the Arab League does not make a decision on Saturday, indecision will be perceived as negative by businessmen abroad who need to make their plans for November," an Israeli official said.

The meeting of Arab League foreign ministers was scheduled in July, after Egypt convened the first Arab summit since 1990. Despite pressure from Syria to freeze normalization with Israel, the Arab leaders agreed to give the Netanyahu government a chance to move forward on the peace process.

If the conference is not held as planned, sources say, Egypt is weighing other possibilities, such as delaying it to the spring or downgrading its representation. The founding conference in Casablanca in 1994 and the one held a year later in Amman were attended by top-level officials.

A report yesterday said Egypt may agree to a conference only attended by businessmen. But an Israeli official said, "A conference of just businessmen would not be great for some Arab countries where government dominates the decision-making on business affairs."

Officials in the Prime Minister's Office say that the fate of the Cairo economic summit came up during Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's meetings in Washington on Monday. President Bill Clinton may phone Mubarak in advance of the Saturday Arab League meeting. Also, US State Department Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs Joan Spero is now in Cairo, as is Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF) banker Klaus Schwab, in a bid to persuade the Egyptians to hold the summit.

Foreign Ministry Deputy Director-General for Economic Affairs Oded Eran said Egypt should hold the summit as a favor to itself, and not as a favor to Israel. "When else is Egypt going to bring 1,000 CEOs of multinational companies and other companies to discuss investment? This is a golden opportunity for Egypt," he said.

If Egypt does completely cancel the November event, some have advocated holding the parity in Switzerland after the annual WEF conference there in January.



Palestinian merchants protesting the takeover by settlers of two allegedly Palestinian-owned stores argue with IDF soldiers who blocked their entry into Hebron's Jewish quarter yesterday. Story, Page 2

Ramon slams Barak, calls him a 'political novice'

SARAH HONIG

SUPPORTERS of MK Ehud Barak's bid for the Labor Party leadership gathered last night under the banner of "With Barak we'll win," while Barak's opponents were adjusting to the new situation and girding themselves for the impending showdown.

Barak invited all of Labor's elite, including the 3,600 members of the central committee, to rally to his cause.

In the end, several hundred party activists turned out at the pro-Barak gathering in Tel Aviv's Beit Hahayal. It was there that Barak initially planned to announce his decision to seek the party leadership. But the news was quickly leaked from Barak's own circle, forcing him to call a news conference on Monday.

But as Barak gathered his troops, opposing forces in the party were preparing a counter-strike. Reports reached party insiders from the US, where Peres is currently visiting, to the effect that he is livid at what was termed Barak's backstabbing.

Barak may have effectively foiled any Peres

attempt to extend his tenure as party chief, but Peres is now seen as likely to form an ad hoc alliance with Barak's erstwhile foe, MK Haim Ramon.

Ramon reacted to Barak's announcement for the first time yesterday, saying that "only a political novice and a rank amateur can so pompously declare that only he can save the party, and that he and he alone can beat Bibi."

Ramon said that at this time he will not announce if and when he will seek the party leadership. "This will be a decision I will make only after the party convention in the spring. It will all depend on what sort of a party emerges from that convention," he said.

Ramon will focus his struggle ahead of the convention on a campaign to push for open primaries. Voting in such primaries is not limited to dues-paying party members. Ramon is certain this will safeguard him from the vindictiveness of the party machine, which blames

him for the Histadrut's disintegration and for the electoral loss to the Likud last May.

Ramon is considered to now be at his lowest political ebb, and thus from his point of view, the later the coolest for the party leadership the better. The consensus in Labor now is that Ramon is unlikely to opt for a fight if he fails to convince the party to switch to open primaries. His greatest hope is that the aggrieved Peres will do all he can to thwart Barak.

MK Uzi Baran is expected to announce within the month whether he intends to vie for the party's No. 1 slot. One man who already tossed his hat in the Labor ring — MK Ephraim Sneh — yesterday accused Ramon and Barak of "tearing the party asunder. Their unbridled rivalry has already cost us dearly during the recent elections campaign, and no doubt contributed massively to our defeat. Now with ceremonial boastfulness Barak is pushing the party once more to personal rivalries instead of the necessary healing and rehabilitation after the bad beating we took."

Reserve commanders declare war on service evaders

Only 16.5% of potential reservist pool serves

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

RESERVE brigade and battalion commanders have set up a forum to combat the highly publicized drop in motivation to do reserve duty, and have declared war on those who evade it.

Some 100 reserve officers met last night to set up a body to consolidate their attack. Gathering at the Paratroopers House in Ramat Gan, the officers, mostly in their late 30's, raised ideas on how to tackle the growing trend.

"The break is growing and in a few years, if this erosion continues, we'll find ourselves alone," said Arie Neiger, a reserve paratrooper battalion commander who helped organize the meeting. "Many people don't feel that [army] service is important enough to sacrifice days to reserve duty. Each year thousands of people are getting out of the reservist pool and in simple math it means that in less than a generation, there won't be a reserve army."

Classified military data shown to the officers showed that each year more men were leaving the reserve force than entering it, mainly due

to the tens of thousands who are evading service for what the officers consider illegitimate reasons. While the figures could not be published for security reasons, the statistics showed that the gap was about 15 percent.

Among the reserve officers, the term "evasion" was muttered like a curse word.

"Let's call the child by its name. It is not motivation or lack of it. It is evasion," Neiger said.

Another officer showed how the burden of reserve duty actually falls on just 16.5% of the potential reservist pool. Equating it to a soccer team, he said it was 2.5 people playing out of a team of 11. Some called for a "war" on those avoiding duty. Others raised the idea of suspending the driver's license of those caught evading service for illegitimate reasons. There was also talk of publicizing the names of employers who made things difficult for workers who serve.

However, the officers seemed to

agree that the growing trend not only to try to avoid reserve duty, but the public legitimacy it receives needs to be reversed.

"The strength of Israel is in its mighty army. This is not a slogan," said Lt.-Col. (res.) Yehuda Brock. "It will take another generation at least for us to start thinking about doing away with reserve duty."

Noah Faran, 38, from Kfar Azzar, said the forum was made up of people who held influential positions in civilian life, and hoped they could make an impact.

He suggested increasing tax benefits for those who do reserve duty.

Neiger said the forum would serve as an apolitical lobby.

One idea that grew out of a meeting last month between reserve officers and the General Staff was to publicly express recognition to reservists. Tomorrow, the IDF will for the first time issue "Outstanding Reservist" awards in an attempt to improve the country's view of reserve duty.

Poll: 50% of reservists would opt out if they could

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

HALF of Israeli men say they would not do reserve duty if they were not forced to do so, and four out of five believe the country is not doing enough to divide the burden fairly among reservists, according to a survey conducted by the IDF's behavioral science branch.

Sixty-three percent of those polled believe the public actually encourages avoiding duty, and that there is no public support for those who do serve.

The poll did not say how many reservists were questioned, nor did it give a margin of error. But the army has set up a desk to deal with the issue, to be headed by Maj.-Gen. Gaby Ashkanazy, deputy head of IDF operations.

A poll conducted among IDF reserve battalion commanders blamed the difficulties in service on those who avoid duty. It also found that society was not supporting reservists enough.

Verdict today on conspiracy charges in Rabin murder

RAINE MARCUS

TEL AVIV District Court is to today hand down its verdict against Yigal Amir, his brother Haggai, and Dror Adani, who are charged with conspiring to murder prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, plotting to harm Arabs, and possession of explosives and weapons.

Assassin Yigal Amir is already serving a life term plus six years imprisonment for Rabin's murder

and the wounding of his bodyguard Yoram Rubin.

His brother Haggai has admitted possessing and manufacturing the explosives found stashed in his parents' Herzliya home, but he has denied the conspiracy charges.

Adani admitted illegally possessing an Uzi submachine gun, but has also denied conspiracy charges.

UN Assembly okays nuclear test ban treaty

UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) — The United Nations General Assembly yesterday adopted and opened for signature a treaty that would ban nuclear explosions forever.

But the large vote in favor of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty was not sufficient to implement the pact, because India has vowed to block its ratification.

The vote on the resolution was an overwhelming 158 in favor, three against, and five abstentions.

The resolution approves the treaty and asks that it be open for signature as soon as possible. Its supporters

believe that those nations who sign will abide by the treaty's provisions anyway and that India over the next few years will change its mind.

But minutes before the vote, India's ambassador, Arundhati Ghose, said: "I would like to declare on the floor of this august assembly that India will never sign this unequal treaty, not now, nor later."

All five declared nuclear powers — the US, Russia, France, Britain and China — support the document, but the treaty does not come into force until 44 states with a nuclear potential sign it. This includes India.

PM: Peace with PA more likely than with Syria

Levy rejects Assad demand to renew talks where left off

ELDAD BECK, HILLEL KUTTLER, and news agencies

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu told New York business leaders yesterday that he was more optimistic about reaching an accord with the Palestinians than achieving peace with Syria.

"Syria essentially wants ... to resume negotiations by saying to us, 'We need to negotiate the future of the Golan Heights, therefore, you [must] accept our demand to cede the Golan Heights,'" Netanyahu told a breakfast meeting of the Association for a Better New York.

"At a certain point we will discover whether Syria is interested in peace. I'm more sanguine about the Palestinian plan ... both sides have a vested interest," he added.

Netanyahu's diplomatic adviser, Dore Gold, had met with US officials in Washington in an attempt to reach a formula for restarting the Syrian talks.

US special Middle East peace process coordinator Dennis Ross will likely visit the region next week to pursue ... resuming the negotiations, indicating progress is at hand, an Israeli Embassy official said.

Syria's official media, however, said that Netanyahu was making the resumption of peace negotiations impossible by ignoring the outcome of nearly five years of bilateral talks.

"Netanyahu struck a new nail in

the coffin of the peace process when he put more obstacles and impossible conditions which remove any possibility to resume the negotiations," the official daily *al-Baath* said.

"Netanyahu renewed his entity's obstinate and provocative stand toward peace by urging Syria to resume the talks without conditions and demanding Arabs to offer what he called tangible concessions," *al-Baath* said.

Meanwhile, Foreign Minister David Levy, in Paris yesterday, rejected a Syrian proposal to renew talks with Israel on the basis of the understandings reached last December at Wye Plantation.

"We don't know what was agreed there; there is no document and no Israeli signature. So instead of playing hide and seek we should go directly toward peace," Levy said, after meeting with President Jacques Chirac. "Israel puts forward no conditions [for resuming the talks]. We accept that the Syrians will expose their positions during the direct talks, as we shall do."

Levy stressed that if the Syrians insisted on an Israeli declaration committing itself to start the talks where they left off or to accepting the principle of land for peace, then the talks would not be resumed.

(Continued on Page 2)

UK report stirs controversy over Nazi gold

LONDON (Reuters) — Britain yesterday revived speculation over the fate of gold looted by Nazi Germany by disclosing that Switzerland turned over to Allied powers only a small part of the gold it acknowledged buying during World War II.

The Foreign Office said in a report that the sum of SF 250 million (about \$60m.) paid in 1946 to settle claims connected with Nazi gold was little more than a tenth of the gold thought to be in Swiss bank vaults at the end of the war.

The ministry, citing a published US government account, said the director of the Swiss National Bank had let slip during post-war negotiations with the Allies that Swiss banks held \$500m. when the war ended — \$6.5 billion at today's prices.

Foreign Secretary Malcolm Rifkind ordered the report following pressure from MP Greville Janner, a leading member of the Jewish community, who has been campaigning on behalf of potential claimants of stolen gold.

"Rivers of gold flowed out of Nazi Germany, and the banks of that river are in Switzerland," Janner told a news conference.

He welcomed the report, which was compiled from published diplomatic documents and public archives, and called on Switzerland to return the gold.

"Switzerland now has a moral obligation to think again about

restoring gold reserves, now worth billions, to the countries from which they were seized," Janner said.

He said the 1946 agreement, under which the Allies waived further claims against Switzerland, amounted to no more than a license to redistribute looted gold, much of it believed stolen from Jews.

But a Swiss official made it clear the matter was regarded as closed. "We don't know at this moment what amounts were involved, but the whole question was settled in the treaty between the Allies and Switzerland," he told Reuters.

The Foreign Office said Switzerland acknowledged buying \$415m. in German gold from 1939-45 and \$88m. traceable originally to Belgium, but refused to concede that this was the amount they should turn over to the Allies.

It said the US, Britain and France had accepted the sum of \$60m. because they felt they had little alternative.

"This sum, far less than the \$130m. asked for by the Allied negotiators, was presented by the Swiss delegation as its final offer. The Swiss maintained consistently that Switzerland could not be held liable to restore the entire amount of looted gold transferred from Germany to Switzerland, some of which was transferred to third countries," the report said.

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Hebron Arabs, settlers scuffle over two stores

A FEW dozen Arabs yesterday tried to force their way into two stores in Hebron which they claim are rightfully theirs, but the army prevented them from entering and dispersed the demonstration.

According to the IDF Spokesman, the demonstrators left peacefully after the Civil Administration promised to meet with the alleged owners to discuss their claims. The stores, located near the entrance to the Avraham Avino Synagogue, were appropriated by the army for security reasons a few years back.

Palestinians said that they came to protest after settlers put up stickers on the shops claiming they owned them. About 20 Palestinians, urged on by a man who owned all four shops, were joined by merchants in the area. The soldiers sep-

EVELYN GORDON

arated the merchants and the settlers and the incident ended, a Palestinian observer said.

The IDF appropriated the stores because they were close to the Avraham Avinim quarter, and Palestinian observers said settlers wanted them as offices because they were so close and unused.

A large sign over a building in the quarter claims that the whole casbah was built on stolen Jewish property after 67 Jews were massacred in Hebron and the remainder fled in 1929.

Noam Arnon, spokesman for the Jewish community in Hebron, flatly denied the Arabs' claim that they are the true owners.

"Everyone agrees that they are

part of the property that belonged to the Jewish community in Hebron [before the 1929 massacre]," he said.

The Arabs appropriated several stores in the area after the Jews were driven out by the massacre, he continued, but the army then took them over for security reasons a few years back. Currently, some are being used by the army, while others stand empty.

The Arabs said their demonstration was in response to an attempt by Jewish settlers to break into the stores, but the army would not confirm this.

Arnon said that Jews do go to these buildings periodically to do repair work, in order to prevent them from collapsing, as some are in very poor condition. However, he said, as far as he knows, no Jews were there yesterday.

Vilna'i says army has not changed tactics since elections

EVELYN GORDON

THERE have been no changes in the way the army deals with terror since April, Deputy Chief of Staff Maj.-Gen. Matan Vilna'i told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee yesterday.

Vilna'i's remarks were relayed to reporters in a joint briefing by MK Ori Orr (Labor) - who was assigned the job by committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) - and IDF Spokesman Oded Ben-Ami.

His statement regarding the army's anti-terror tactics was gleefully received by opposition MKs, who said it clearly refuted the Right's pre-election charge that the Labor government was tying the army's hands - unless Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has simply ignored his campaign promise to remove the alleged restraints on the army's actions. Right-wing MKs, however, contested this interpretation.

"The government doesn't dictate tactics," said Rehavam Ze'evi (Molechet). "It gives a guiding principle: To fight terror... and [the army] does this in the best way it knows."

"The army fought terror then, and it is fighting terror now," he said. "[The Left] is simply making political use of this in order to attack Bibi [Netanyahu]."

A similar argument erupted over another

statement of Vilna'i's, regarding the army's position on a redeployment from Hebron.

"We presented basically the same stand [to this government] as we presented in the past, with a few unimportant changes," he said, according to Ben-Ami.

Haim Ramon (Labor) said this proves that the previous government's redeployment plan did not endanger security - though Ben-Ami refused to say whether the Rabin-Peres plan actually accorded with the army's proposals. Ze'evi, however, said that even if it did, the lack of change in the army's position proved nothing. The army would naturally give the same answer every time it is asked "what is the least dangerous way to withdraw from Hebron?" he said.

Shaul Yahalom (National Religious Party) said he was appalled that this is evidently still the question the army is being asked.

"I was shocked, because the NRP's demand is for a revolution in the army's position on Hebron," he said. "I expect such a directive from the political level... and I was shocked that no such directive has been received."

Vilna'i also addressed a number of other issues at the meeting. On Lebanon, he said the current period of quiet is mainly due to the Lebanese elections, and Hizbullah attacks can be expected to resume once the elections are over.

Regarding Iraq, Vilna'i said according to expert assessment, Saddam Hussein is winning. He did not discuss the possible effects of the Iraqi situation on Israel, but did say that, according to the best information available, if Hussein has any weapons at all capable of endangering Israel, they are at a very low operational level.

In response to MKs who raised the issue of declining motivation in the army, Vilna'i said that in the regular army, motivation in combat units is as high as ever. Where the problem is showing up, he said, is in absenteeism from reserve duty and the increasing unwillingness of new recruits to join combat units.

Several of the MKs suggested increased financial compensation for combat soldiers doing reserve duty. Vilna'i said that regular soldiers in combat units do receive twice as much as those in non-combat units (NIS 540 a month compared to NIS 270), but the army does not like the idea of giving extra payments to the combat reserves.

Netanyahu visits Lubavitcher rebbe's grave

MARILYN HENRY NEW YORK

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu made a pilgrimage yesterday to a Queens cemetery to visit the grave of the Lubavitcher rebbe, whose followers produced one of the key - and controversial - slogans of Netanyahu's election campaign.

After a five-minute visit to the grave of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, Netanyahu moved to a tent where he was eagerly welcomed by Lubavitch dignitaries.

There had been rumors that major Lubavitch figures would boycott the event because they objected to Netanyahu's meeting last week with Palestinian Authority head Yasser Arafat.

However, shortly before Netanyahu's arrival, Lubavitch leaders said that although they were dismayed by his meeting with Arafat, they were honored by the prime minister's visit to the grave and would not disrupt it.

"We are extremely disappointed, as are many within his party" with the "Arafat meeting," said Rabbi Joseph Spielman, head of the Jewish Community Council of Crown Heights, the Habad enclave in Brooklyn.

"The reason why there was support [for Netanyahu] was not that he would prolog the [peace] process, but that he would stop the process. The fact that he'll give in pieces instead of all at one shot makes no difference to us. You can underline our dismay," Spielman said.

At the cemetery, Netanyahu was



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu meets with President Bill Clinton in the Oval Office on Monday. (Reuters)

praised by mining magnate Joseph Gutnick, of Melbourne, Australia, who said that generations of Lubavitch rabbis had encouraged Jewish settlement in Hebron. Netanyahu, he said, "will not allow a repeat of the [Hebron]

massacres of 1929."

In very brief remarks, Netanyahu spoke warmly of the late rebbe who "had absolute conviction in the justice of our path."

The government of Israel, he said, is also convinced of the jus-

tice of its path. "It is just that we safeguard our oldest community, in Hebron," the prime minister said. "It is just that Jews live and thrive in Judea."

Netanyahu had one more public appearance scheduled for late last

night, at the end of his two-day visit to the US. The prime minister was scheduled to share the dais with Vice President Al Gore at a fund-raising dinner for the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

Report: Naturalized foreign citizens traveling can keep Jerusalem residency permits

JON IMMANUEL

PRIME Minister Binyamin Netanyahu has reversed a government policy of forcing Jerusalem Arabs with acquired foreign passports to choose between their foreign citizenship or their Jerusalem residency permits, a Palestinian newspaper reported yesterday.

Palestinians with both documents say that in recent days they have not been asked to choose which document to keep when they go to the Interior Ministry offices to obtain a return visa before they travel abroad.

The Interior Ministry, however, said it has received no new guidelines on the matter.

The *Al-Quds* daily said government sources maintained Netanyahu had quietly dropped the policy because it was unfair.

Under the policy applied by the Interior Ministry, a naturalized American citizen who wanted to travel would essentially have no choice but to forgo his Jerusalem residency permit, because he might have no document other than a US passport on which to travel. Many Palestinians gave up their Jordanian citizenship on becoming US citizens. A Jerusalem residency permit is not a passport and a Jerusalem resident may not acquire a Palestinian passport.

Furthermore, the rule applies to someone born in Jerusalem but not someone who acquired foreign citizenship by birth and later acquired a Jerusalem residency permit.

When *Al-Quds* raised this problem with Netanyahu during an

interview last month he said he was unaware of it and would study the matter.

This regulation has always existed but its enforcement apparently only began recently, in what may have been an attempt to reduce the number of Arabs legally residing in Jerusalem. Jerusalem residents who have left the city for more than seven years are not included in the change of policy.

Palestinian sources said the matter was brought up during the Netanyahu meeting with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, and the change in the policy was a quid pro quo for Arafat's agreeing to close Palestinian Authority offices in Jerusalem.

Interior Ministry spokesman Tova Ellinson denied the policy was unfair, maintaining it was consistent with the law that states: "If a non-Jew comes here and wants Israeli citizenship he must forgo his foreign citizenship." She said many countries did not permit dual citizenship.

The clear implication is that a non-Jewish Jerusalem resident must choose to become an Israeli citizen - which he can - if he wants to remain in Jerusalem and also travel abroad, thus strengthening Israel's demographic hold on Jerusalem.

Palestinian journalist Daoud Kuttab, a naturalized US citizen, who was offered the choice when he left the country three weeks ago, called the policy "ethnic cleansing."

Jordan to reconsider allowing Israelis to cross over via Allenby Bridge

HAIM SHAPIRO

JORDAN is to re-examine the possibility of allowing Israelis to cross into Jordan via the Allenby Bridge, Jordanian Prime Minister Abdel Karim Kabariti told Tourism Minister Moshe Katsav.

Katsav, who yesterday concluded a two-day official visit to Jordan, met with Kabariti and Crown Prince Hassan.

Until now, Israelis and Jordanians have had to cross the border either at the Sheikh Hussein Bridge near Beit She'an or at the Arava crossing near Eilat. Only Palestinians, foreign tourists and diplomats have been permitted to use the Allenby Bridge, the most direct route between Jerusalem and Amman.

The Jordanians have been wary of allowing other traffic on the

Allenby Bridge, apparently for fear of alienating the Palestinians, who claim that the bridge should be under their jurisdiction.

Following his meeting with Kabariti, Katsav told reporters that the Jordanian prime minister had said that virtually the only economic advances resulting from the peace treaty were in the realm of tourism. Katsav reported that Kabariti had said that the entire Arab world was watching and noting every difficulty.

Kabariti pressed for Israel to allow Royal Jordanian Airlines to fly more passengers between Ben-Gurion Airport and Amman. Until now, the Civil Aviation Authority has said that it would only review the issue after the flights by Royal Jordanian and El Al have been going on for six months.

It was agreed that both Katsav and Jordanian Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Salah Rusheidat would go to the annual convention of the American Society of Travel Agents, which is to be held in Bangkok next month.

Three killed in road accidents

DAVID RUDGE and Ilim

THE carnage on the roads continued unabated yesterday when three people were killed in separate accidents.

A driver was killed and his passenger seriously hurt when their car overturned in the Galilee. Police said the accident happened shortly after midnight Monday on a road leading to Makr village east of Acre.

The car, being driven by

Hawash Mahadi, 22 of J'daideh village, apparently swerved off the road, overturned and crashed into an open field.

Police said Mahadi was killed and the passenger in the car, also a resident of J'daideh, was seriously injured and was taken by ambulance to Nahariya hospital.

A 35-year-old man from a vil-

lage near Nablus was run over yesterday by a motorcyclist while crossing Ramat Gan's Jabotinsky Street.

The motorcyclist was slightly injured and taken to Lohilov Hospital.

The driver of a car was killed yesterday afternoon when he hit an electricity cabinet on the side of the road and his vehicle overturned several times.

PEACE

(Continued from Page 1)

Levy, who also met yesterday with French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette, did ask the French to pass a message to both the Syrians and the Lebanese. Levy did not reveal the contents of the message, but it seems it deals with the "Lebanon first" proposal.

According to Levy, the Syrians had misunderstood Israel's intentions with that proposal. "The Syrians thought that we were trying, with that idea, to avoid negotiations with them," Levy said, adding that the proposal had been meant as a confidence-building measure, as well as a way to secure Israel's northern border.

French officials met with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Shara last week. Asked whether Paris was offering to mediate between Israel and Syria, Foreign Ministry spokesman Jacques Rimmelpaard said: "France is listening to all sides. It is always ready to help."

French officials believe the "Lebanon first" idea will not get anywhere. They do not, however, see any risk of an Israeli-Syrian military confrontation, even if peace talks are not resumed soon.

Netanyahu, after meeting with President Bill Clinton on Monday evening, told Israeli reporters that resuming the talks depends on Syria's understanding that his government has adopted an approach to the negotiations that is different from its predecessor's.

"From our perspective, we are ready to resume talks yesterday, as I told President Clinton. Syria is not exhibiting the same readiness that we'd like. But I'm prepared to be surprised," Netanyahu

said. "Is Syria interested in resuming the diplomatic process with Israel or is it presenting us with ultimatums, like on the future of the Golan, that it knows from the start we won't commit to?"

Ross told reporters following the White House meeting that Netanyahu exhibited "real fervor" in wanting to see talks resume, and said the US is "working also with the Syrians to see if we can come up with a basis on which to do so."

The administration, following the Clinton-Netanyahu meeting, better understands Israel's need to ensure security for Hebron's Jewish residents before an IDF redeployment, an Israeli official said. But he stopped short of suggesting the US supports Jerusalem's view on the matter.

Ross also said he was encouraged by Monday's first meeting of the Israeli-Palestinian steering committee, and the formation of other subcommittees to discuss Hebron, security and easing the closure since Netanyahu met with Yasser Arafat last week.

"We've begun to see the development of the kinds of channels of communication and development of a working relationship that makes it possible to overcome differences," Ross said.

"It's a combination of the formal mechanisms and their own channels of communication, that have clearly progressed over the last couple of weeks, that I think gives us some hope that, in fact, they will find ways to move forward, and we will help them."

IDF to open second crossing from Gaza strip

ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

IN an effort to ease restrictions on Palestinian laborers, the IDF announced that it will open the Sufa crossing in the southern Gaza Strip to Palestinians who work in the Negev.

The army is to start operating the crossing tomorrow.

The army said the same restrictions are to apply as at the Erez crossing: Only married Palestinians over the age of 29 who have valid work permits would be allowed to enter, and then only after strict security checks. Crossing will be permitted only on foot.

Police, Border Police arrest 253 residents of territories in Israel illegally

Police arrested 253 residents of the territories staying in Israel illegally during raids on several places in Nazareth early yesterday morning.

Scores of police, border policemen, and detectives from the Ha'amakim district took part in the widespread operation.

All those arrested are expected to be sent back to the territories.

David Rudge

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SOCIAL & PERSONAL

THE WEEKLY MEETING of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today at 1:00 p.m. at the YMCA, King David Street. Dr. Sue Zohar-Deshch will speak on "A. Sustaining about Learning Disabilities."

The Jewish Agency for Israel
The Communications Division
extends sincerest condolences
to its acting director
Barbara Promislow
on the passing of her dear mother
FAY FISHMAN
in Winnipeg, Canada
and extends its heartfelt sympathy to the family.

Aviv Gefen blasted for advising fans to leave Israel

AVIV Gefen, considered by many to be Israel's leading pop star and well known for his unorthodox views, dropped another bombshell yesterday when he advised his fans to leave the country.

"I recommend to the youth to leave the country. There is no democracy here. I am one of the only people who speaks out. That's my job," Gefen said in an interview, excerpts of which were published yesterday in *Ma'ariv*.

The full interview was given to the paper's youth magazine, *Ma'ariv Le'noar*, after its readers chose Gefen as "Personality of the Year" in a poll.

"It's time to pack bags and escape from Israel. I am being serious," Gefen added. "I am ashamed of this government and the prime minister and I am ashamed that an empty-headed and deficient person like [Benjamin] Netanyahu is my representative."

Gefen, who had held a public reconciliation with Yitzhak Rabin minutes before the late premier was slain during the peace rally in Tel Aviv last November, said that he was "afraid they would rub off the messages of mourning" left on the walls of what is now known as Rabin Square. Earlier, Gefen had made headlines for publicly attacking Rabin.

"To me, it is more important

that the [graffiti] remain than that the Western Wall remain," he was quoted as saying. "That is a living human cry on those walls. The dream of peace has been destroyed."

Asked about his feelings towards Judaism, Gefen replied: "I value Judaism but a Pink Floyd record turns me on more than the Western Wall. I believe we have created God. I am God, you are God, John Lennon is God. People make money out of God instead of honoring Him."

Defending the magazine's decision to print the interview, *Ma'ariv* editor Avi Morgenstern said: "We absolutely dissociate ourselves from Gefen's views... but it was most important that the youth know what their idol thinks. We are totally opposed to his views and I wrote an editorial expressing this."

But the angry condemnations were swift to follow.

Morgenstern confirmed, in an Israel Radio interview, that there were parents who had cancelled their children's subscriptions to the magazine following yesterday's publication. He said that "thousands" of angry telephone calls had been received by the paper.

Deputy Education Minister

Moshe Peled called on the media not to provide someone with such views with a platform to reach the public. "It is incoercible," Peled said, "that in a year when we are celebrating 100 years of Zionism, a Jew should call on the youth to leave Israel."

"I call on the youth to boycott Gefen," he added.

"I have always believed that people who do not like Israel should just quietly leave. We can do without them," former education minister MK Amnon Rubinstein said.

He cautioned that Gefen might simply be seeking publicity. "We should not get over-excited about every stupid remark by one singer or another... because surveys carried out when I was minister showed that Israeli youth are very patriotic. The motivation to remain in this country and even to fight [in combat units] is higher than ever before," Rubinstein said.

In a phone-in survey conducted on Educational TV's *Erev Hadash* program yesterday, 70% of respondents said that they "believed that the mood of the general public was not expressed by Gefen" while 30% said Gefen had hit the nail on the head. The program said that thousands of calls had been received but did not give an exact number of participants.



Tatiana Zelenskaya (right) is honored as a Righteous Among the Nations by Yad Vashem Chairman Avner Shalev in a ceremony in Jerusalem yesterday. "With my own eyes, I saw how Jews were murdered by the Nazis and so I decided I would save at least one Jew," said Zelenskaya, 76, from the Crimean peninsula, who adopted Luba Gudaiev (center), then a four-year-old Jewish girl. The two women recently came together to live in Israel.

Golan Development Corp. official questioned in fraud probe

BILL HUTMAN

A DIRECTOR of the Golan Development Corporation has been questioned as a suspect in the ongoing fraud investigation of the Investment Center, a police spokesman announced yesterday.

Meir Uri, company director-general, was interrogated for several hours Monday night, and then released on NIS 230,000 bail by a Katzin Magistrate's Court judge. Uri's passport was also taken away from him, as is routine in such cases.

Uri is suspected of receiving thousands of shekels in bribes between 1989 and 1991, when he served as the projects manager at the Golan Development Corporation and later deputy director-general of the company, according to police.

Owners of the Mai Golan and the Masad corporations allegedly made payoffs to Uri, for his pushing their firms, and other projects they were connected with at the Investment Center, according to police.

Investigators uncovered the alleged wrongdoing during the ongoing Investment Center probe, and police emphasized it was just getting underway.

J'm falls short in plan for building classrooms for Arabs

BILL HUTMAN

NEARLY two years after the Jerusalem municipality launched its much-heralded plan to build 180 new classrooms in eastern Jerusalem, about a dozen have been built, and only a handful more are slated to be built next year, the final year of the plan.

Arab schools, meanwhile, are fast becoming more crowded, and the municipality had to turn away pupils this year because of the lack of classrooms, telling parents to keep their children in private schools, according to municipal sources.

A senior municipal official described the city's implementation of the plan as a "complete failure."

In announcing the plan, Mayor Ehud Olmert originally stated that starting in 1995, some 60 classrooms would be built annually. Olmert has repeatedly spoken of "the three-year plan to build 180 classrooms," as proof he is committed to improving conditions in eastern Jerusalem.

Just last week, during a visit to eastern Jerusalem schools to mark the start of the school year, Olmert again spoke of the importance of the plan to build 180 classrooms, but failed to mention that few of the classrooms had been built or would be built soon.

An official statement released by the municipality during the

visit last week said "40 classrooms will be finished the end of this year."

According to a municipal report obtained by *The Jerusalem Post*, only 10 new classrooms were completed under the plan - at schools in the Shuafat and Beit Hanina neighborhoods. Work has begun on another 18 classrooms, while plans for an additional 24 were being prepared so that bids from contractors could be solicited.

Education Ministry deputy director general Shneur Simha confirmed that the ministry, together with the Treasury, approved funding for 180 classrooms in eastern Jerusalem, that were supposed to be completed by the end of 1997.

The municipality now, however, believes that the 180 classrooms will not be completed until 1998 at the earliest, and more likely not until 1999, said Nissim Solomon, head of the Jerusalem Education Authority.

Solomon said that budget constraints and difficulty in obtaining land for classrooms and new schools in eastern Jerusalem were holding up construction. Solomon stood by the official figures released last week, saying that 40 classrooms were being built or had been completed. He added that tenders were either already published, or would be published soon, for an additional 36 classrooms.

"We are building classrooms, it is just not going as fast as we hoped," Solomon said.

But Simha, who is in charge of building and planning, confirmed that few of the classrooms had yet been built, and that projections he had received from the municipality indicated that only a few more would be built next year.

"The money is transferred to the municipality per project, and as soon as they are ready, we are prepared to turn over what they need," Simha said. It costs about NIS 460,000 to build a single classroom in Jerusalem, according to Simha.

"The schools in eastern Jerusalem are already very crowded. Most don't even have space left in their yards to put in additional pre-fab classrooms," to be used until conventional classrooms are built, Simha said.

Some 24,400 pupils attend public schools in eastern Jerusalem this year, and the number of pupils has been growing in recent years. Municipal sources said that when the three-year program began in 1995, there was a need for about 350 new classrooms, but today there is need for over 400.

Ministry accused of failing to meet Triangle youngsters' special education needs

EVELYN GORDON

THE Education Ministry is refusing to provide special education for 11 Arab youngsters with serious hearing and/or vision impairments, the families' attorney charged in a letter to the Justice Ministry yesterday.

Attorney Hassan Jabareen, who recently left the Association for Civil Rights in Israel to set up a new organization focusing on civil rights in the Arab sector, charged in the letter that the Education Ministry's refusal violates the law, and asked the Justice Ministry to order it to change its policy. Otherwise, he said, he will petition the High Court of Justice next week.

The children, residents of the Triangle aged 6-7, were all referred to the Arab sector's one special education school, in Nazareth, by the Education Ministry's local placement committees. The school said it was willing in principle to take them, but could not do so without additional staff. It is already teaching some 120 children when it should only be teaching 80, the school said; it cannot stretch its resources any further.

When the ministry was informed of this, however, its response was that any children

who would not normally be in the northern school district should simply be put into ordinary schools, and in this way, the number of children in the special education school would be reduced, Jabareen said.

Jabareen argued that this response was illegal, as by law, the placement committees have sole authority to decide that a child needs special education, and to assign him to a particular school. The ministry has no right to ignore the committees' recommendations, Jabareen said.

The Education Ministry did not respond to a request for comment.

Acre Municipality workers strike

DAVID RUDGE

THE entire 600-member Acre Municipality workforce walked off the job yesterday morning in protest over non-payment of their August salaries.

"The situation is even worse than it would be under normal circumstances because the workers now find themselves without money on the eve of the holidays," said workers committee chairman Yossi Adar.

"From our point of view, we have done everything required of us to help in the municipality's recovery program and there should be no reason why we should suffer," said Adar.

He noted that the total workforce had been cut by 110 in the past two years and reduced to its present level of 600 employees.

Municipality director-general

Court rejects malpractice suit against Meir Hospital

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Jerusalem District Court has rejected a NIS 11.5 million malpractice suit against Kfar Sava's Meir Hospital filed in the name of a mentally retarded child.

Kupat Holim Clalit, which owns Meir Hospital and voiced its satisfaction with the ruling, yesterday said the court last week rejected the parents' claims that the child suffered from cerebral palsy resulting from fetal distress during birth. The court stated that his mental retardation was due to other factors not related to his delivery.

According to Judge Dr. A. Z. Ben-Zimra, the delivery was "not traumatic." During the hearing, the court proposed a compromise by which Clalit, without accepting any responsibility for the disability, would pay NIS 1m. However, the health fund's legal advisers rejected this, arguing that Meir doctors had done nothing wrong.

In the end, the plaintiffs were required to cover Clalit's NIS 10,000 in legal fees.

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Tichon plans panel to re-examine parliamentary immunity

EVELYN GORDON

KNESSET Speaker Dan Tichon (Likud) intends to set up a committee to re-examine the entire principle of parliamentary immunity, he announced in a speech to the Jerusalem branch of the Israel Bar Association last night.

"To say the least, this law is outdated, and does not reflect the reality and the dynamic in which we live," he said. "There is good reason for the public debate over what the extent of an MK's immunity should be."

The law has already been amended 20 times since it was passed - including five amendments just in the past year - and these changes were not merely cosmetic, he said. They reflected "a desire to change the basic behavioral norms of the MKs and of the Knesset itself."

Despite this, however, there is room for a fundamental re-examination of the entire law, and he intends to set up a committee to conduct such a review, Tichon said. "The Knesset is not a sanctuary [for criminals]," he stressed.

Tichon also reiterated his denunciation of the recent attacks on Supreme Court President Aharon Barak in the Israeli press, stressing the importance of the High Court of Justice and the need to avoid "verbal violence."

However, he indicated that he sided with those who feel the court has been infringing too much on the Knesset's prerogatives in recent years.

"Perhaps it is desirable to remember once again that the Knesset is the head of the various branches of state, as it expresses the desires of its citizens and reflects their free will," he said, citing a High Court ruling on the subject to back his statement. "The Knesset is not exempt from criticism, both public and judicial. It is subject to the constant scrutiny of the MKs themselves, of the press, and at times - and there are those who think too frequently - of the court."

Solar energy plant protects Negev pipeline

DAVID RUDGE

MEKOROT has established a solar energy plant in the Negev to produce electricity used in a process to help protect a water pipeline running between Shifta and Ketziot.

The project has already saved Mekorot money. Mekorot officials said it would have cost around NIS 500,000 for connection to the national grid and the construction of a sub-station at the site.

In comparison, the solar energy plant, which requires little maintenance and produces free electricity, cost around NIS 250,000 to build - half the price of connection to the national grid.

The officials said the electricity is used in a cathodic process which helps prevent corrosion of water pipelines and any bursts.

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Hevrat Ha'ovdim announces that it is considering selling the HAARGAZ ENTERPRISES L.T.D. as an ongoing concern, while at the same time protecting the rights of the workers.

All parties interested in participating in this sale should apply to Hevrat Ha'ovdim through advocate Moshe Porath, 10 Carlebach St., P.O. BOX 20045, Tel-Aviv 67132.

The last date for the aforesaid application is October 11, 1998.

To remove any doubt, it is emphasized that this notice is not an invitation to the public to purchase Hevrat Ha'ovdim holdings, in whole or in part, nor does it represent an obligation by Hevrat Ha'ovdim to sell its holdings.

The purchasers, if at all, will be selected on the basis of clarifications and negotiations which will be held by Hevrat Ha'ovdim with whomever it desires, at its sole discretion, if it indeed decides to sell its holdings.

Hevrat Ha'ovdim reserves the right to extend the final date for additional applications at its sole discretion.

Saddam offers amnesty in bid to keep Kurds at home

TENS of thousands of Kurds fled into the rugged mountains bordering Iran, but when word spread that Saddam Hussein's troops had not entered this city, some reversed their flight and returned home yesterday.

Up to 300,000 Kurds may have left after a Kurdish faction backed by Saddam captured the northeastern city Monday night, UN officials said. But Sulaymaniyah was peaceful yesterday, encouraging refugees to trek back home on trucks, in taxis and on foot.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party celebrated its sweeping victory in northern Iraq with a parade in the streets Tuesday, but Iraqi troops were nowhere in sight.

KDP fighters carrying AK-47 rifles rode through the streets on the back of pickup trucks decorated with yellow flags and streamers.

Saddam, meanwhile, sought to keep the refugees at home, declaring a general amnesty for all Kurds and lifting barriers between Iraq and the semi-autonomous Kurdish areas that have been in place since the end of the 1991 Gulf War.

The full ramifications of the announcement were not immediately clear. But the Kurdish "safe haven," established by the US-led forces

BRIAN MURPHY
SULAYMANIYAH, Iraq

five years ago, has effectively collapsed, and Saddam was wasting no time in reasserting his authority over the north.

About 30 kilometers northeast of Sulaymaniyah, KDP fighters looted everything they could carry from the headquarters of the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

Soldiers and villagers towed away air conditioners, wire, pipes and even light bulbs. One old man stumbled away with three fluorescent light tubes, a large ceramic urn and a toilet seat.

In Sulaymaniyah, a few top members of the PUK chose to remain.

"I don't think we're in any danger, only Talabani and about 10 other important PUK members are the ones whose lives are at risk," said Majid Haji Ahmed, a senior member of the PUK council in Sulaymaniyah. "It's better than being a refugee."

But many Kurds showed little faith in Saddam after so many harsh crackdowns directed at them in the past.

In neighboring Iran, meanwhile, the govern-

ment said 200,000 refugees were massed at its border and it gave conflicting signals about whether they would be allowed in.

Ahmad Hosseini, an Interior Ministry official in Tehran, told a news conference that the refugees would be kept out "unless their lives are threatened by gunfire or attacks."

But Foreign Ministry spokesman Mohammed Mohammadi said Iran was "ready to accept the refugees."

Some 2,000 Iraqi Kurdish refugees, traveling on foot and crammed onto vehicles, crossed in Iran on Monday, according to the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

In Baghdad, Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahhaf announced the amnesty on state television, saying the only people excluded were those who committed murder, rape or stole state property.

The statement did not give details on the new rules that would apply to the northern Kurdish region.

But it was interpreted to mean that Iraq will no longer regard the north as a separate region, and people will be able to travel and trade freely without obtaining any special documents. (AP)

Yeltsin hands powers to Chernomyrdin, but keeps nuclear trigger

ANATOLY VERBIN
MOSCOW

RUSSIAN President Boris Yeltsin, preparing for heart bypass surgery, has handed his prime minister partial control of several top ministries but kept the nuclear "red button," the Kremlin said yesterday.

Yeltsin's order appeared designed partly to curb the ambitions of Alexander Lebed, his national security adviser, who had sought overall charge of key "power ministries."

Presidential press secretary Sergei Yastrzhembsky said defense, interior and other ministries who usually report directly to the president would coordinate their activities with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin while Yeltsin is on holiday.

He told Russian news agencies that Chernomyrdin would be able, if necessary, to summon the newly

formed Defense Council which comprises top ministers and security supremo Lebed.

Yeltsin, 65, announced in a television interview last week that he would undergo heart surgery at the end of the month.

Speculation was rife on whether he would pass authority to Chernomyrdin, his constitutional deputy.

Yeltsin has officially been on holiday since August 26 and the Kremlin has not announced when his vacation will end.

"President Boris Yeltsin, for the duration of his holiday, has ordered the heads of the power ministries to coordinate with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin all questions that

require a decision by the head of state," Itar-Tass news agency quoted Yastrzhembsky as saying.

They should also keep Yeltsin regularly informed on the matters in their ministries, Yastrzhembsky said.

Interfax news agency quoted him as saying the nuclear "red button" would stay under the control of the Russian leader. It could be activated only by a joint action of the president, the defense minister and the chief-of-staff of the army.

Last year, when Yeltsin was in the hospital after a heart attack, Chernomyrdin said he was in control of the power ministries but was later forced to tone down his remarks.

This time he appeared to be taking no chances, playing down his extra responsibilities in comments to Tass and Interfax. (Reuters)

Lebanese PM assured of majority in parliament

BEIRUT - Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and his allies were assured a majority in the new Parliament as official results came in from elections in southern Lebanon.

Hariri and his partners will now have at least 68 seats in the 128 seat legislature, according to results announced late Monday.

Sunday's election in the south was the fourth stage of the five-phase balloting to choose the half-Christian, half-Muslim parliament. The last round, in eastern Lebanon, is slated for Sunday.

Like the outgoing legislature, the new Parliament is dominated by pro-Syrian lawmakers. Syria, which maintains 40,000 troops in Lebanon, is the main power broker in the country.

Elected in Sunday's vote were all 21 members of the joint ticket agreed to by the two main Shi'ite Moslem factions, Amal, a Syrian-backed moderate group, and Hizbollah.



Ninety-six-year-old Emilie (left) and 97-year-old Otto Kahn of Neustadt am Rennsteig, Germany, prepare to celebrate their 75th anniversary, which falls today. They have four children, 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren. (AP)

Official: Russia steps up sales of arms to developing countries

MOSCOW (AP) - Russia has pushed aggressively to boost arms sales to the developing world, moving to consolidate its lead over the United States, a newspaper reported yesterday.

As of now, Moscow has signed contracts for arms sales totaling \$8 billion and hopes to reach \$10 billion by the end of the year, Maj. Gen. Alexander Kotyolkin, the head of the Russian arms trading monopoly Rosvoozuzheniye, told the daily *Kommersant* newspaper.

Russia now exports weapons to 51 countries, with India, China, Malaysia, Kuwait, Cyprus and Turkey taking the lead, the newspaper said.

For the first time since the Soviet

collapse, Russia last year surpassed the US in weapons exports to developing countries, agreeing to sell about \$6 billion worth of weapons, up from \$3.7 billion in 1994, according to the US Congressional Research Service's report released last month.

New US contracts for arms sales dropped to \$3.8 billion in 1995 from \$6.2 billion the previous year.

Not all deals are carried out, and new orders often take several years to fill. The United States was still far ahead in actual deliveries of arms last year - \$9.5 billion worth to Russia's \$2.4 billion.

Kommersant said Russia hopes to receive \$3.5 billion to 3.6 billion from arm sales this year.

Number of people in Japan over 100 tops 7,000

TOKYO (AP) - Japan, which leads the world in life expectancy, now has more than 7,000 centenarians, the government said yesterday.

There will be 7,373 Japanese 100 years or older at the end of September, up 955 people than a year earlier, the Health and Welfare Ministry said. Of those who have lived a century, 80 per-

cent are women, it said.

A list of the centenarians living in Japan was announced by the ministry prior to Respect for the Aged Day, a national holiday in Japan, which falls on September 15.

Japanese have the world's longest life expectancy - 83 years for women and 77 years for men, according to the ministry.

Tension rises in divided Cyprus

NICOSIA (AP) - Tension between the Greek and Turkish sectors of this war-divided Mediterranean island nation rose anew yesterday, with authorities on both sides trading recriminations over recent killings.

A Cyprus government spokesman said yesterday that an agriculture minister in the island's breakaway Turkish Cypriot republic was one of the killers of a Greek Cypriot protester shot dead last month while attempting to haul down a Turkish flag.

He identified him as Kenson Akin, 43, and said he was among an estimated 35,000 settlers brought from mainland Turkey following the 1974 invasion of Cyprus.

The charge was made as Turkish Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller arrived on the Turkish-occupied north of Cyprus to attend the funeral of a Turkish Cypriot soldier killed on Sunday while on sentry duty on the line dividing the island since 1974.

Demjanjuk defense asks end of citizenship revocation

CLEVELAND (AP) - Attorneys for John Demjanjuk have requested dismissal of the government's civil case that resulted in his loss of citizenship in 1981.

Federal public defenders Michael Dane and Debra Hughes made the request in a legal brief filed Monday.

Dane and Hughes contend the ruling that stripped Demjanjuk of his citizenship "was undeniably obtained as a result of litigation during which the government committed fraud on the court."

At a hearing in May before US District Judge Paul Matia, the defense identified a possible eyewitness, Jakob Reimer, who was a paymaster at the Trawniki guard training camp in Poland where an identification card has Demjanjuk posted.

In the brief, the defense lawyers say Reimer could have cast doubt on Demjanjuk's Trawniki identification card and that the Justice Department's Nazi-hunting Office of Special Investigations knew about Reimer in 1980.

John Russell, a Justice Department spokesman, said he could not comment on the defense brief.

Aftereffects of blizzard of '96 show up in delivery rooms

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - There was a lot more going on during the Blizzard of '96 in the northeastern United States than shoveling driveways and playing board games.

Nine months after the huge snowstorm socked the region, Pennsylvania and New Jersey delivery rooms are preparing for a deluge of Blizzard Babies.

"It doesn't take rocket science, it just takes a little arithmetic," the administrator of Bryn Mawr Hospital, Nancy Farrington, said Friday. "Instead of playing in the snow, people were playing in their beds."

Hospitals don't know exactly how many women will be giving birth this month and next. But administrators at hospitals in both states say they are taking their cue from projected due dates - which are up as much as 50 percent over last year.

Dr. Richard Krauss, an obstetrician who delivers babies at Pennsylvania Hospital, said he is expecting 20 births this month. He usually has 10 or 12.

New Jersey doctor Wendy Martinez said that for the first time ever, her practice had to add a second birthing class for new mothers.

The topic of conversation on the first day of class? "Everyone was asking everyone else, 'So what day of the storm did you do it on?'" Martinez said. "There was the snow, a lot of people sitting around fires in a fireplace, maybe a glass of wine, so the setting was... tranquil."

Thirty years ago, the birth rate jumped off the charts at New York-area hospitals - nine months after the great blackout of November 9, 1965.

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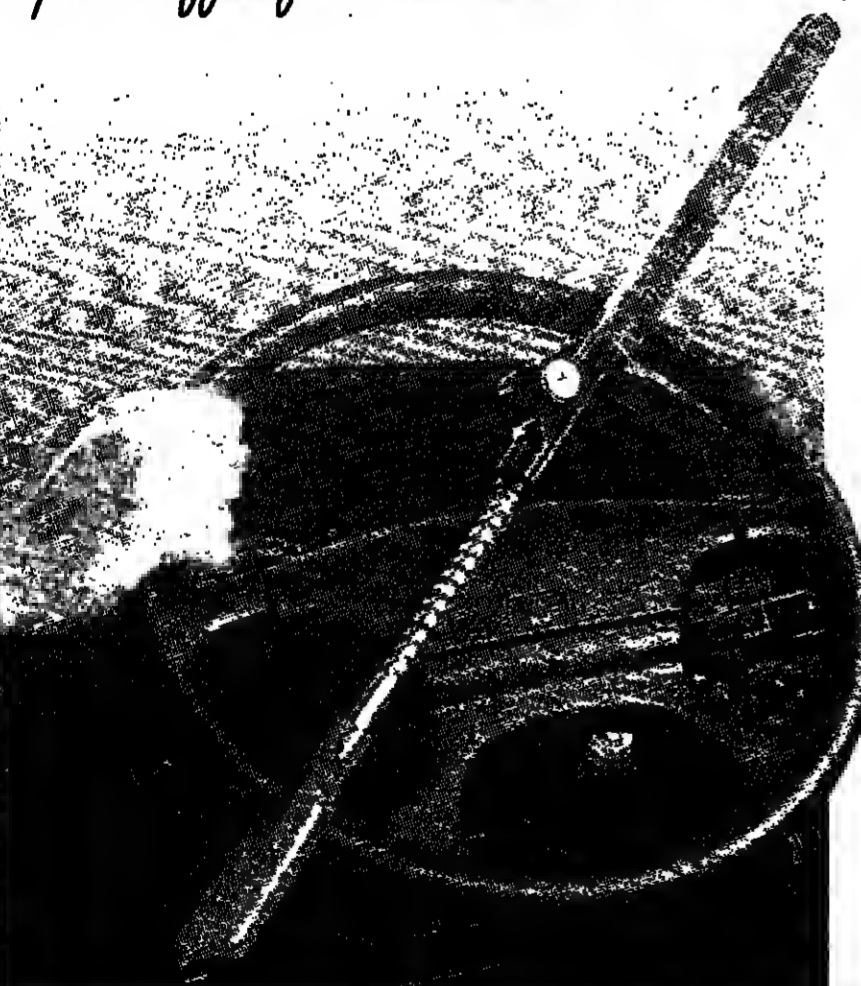
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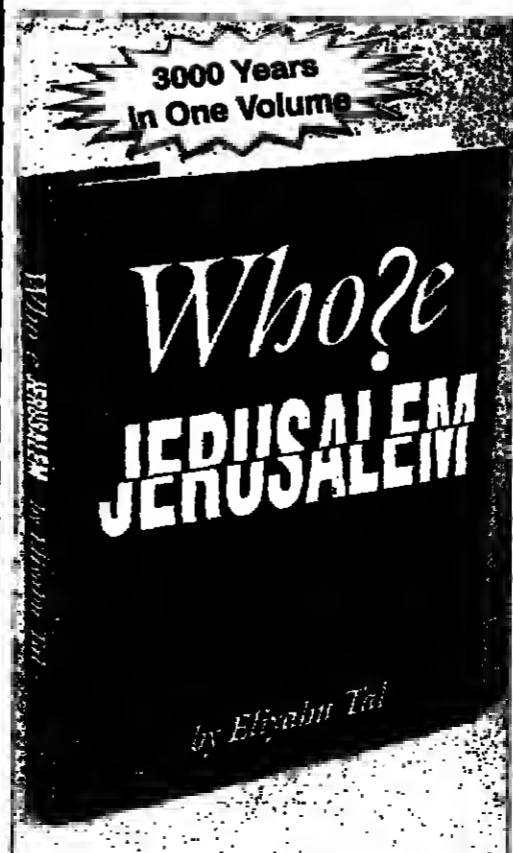
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Battle over rights of stolen Holocaust art

A Jewish-American family is suing to retrieve a painting the Nazis stole from them, reports Marilyn Henry in New York

TRYING to save his art collection even before trying to protect himself, Friedrich Gutmann shipped his paintings from Heemstede, Holland, to a Paris warehouse around 1939. In the end, he saved neither. The paintings were plundered by the Nazis. Gutmann, whose father had converted the family to Christianity, was beaten to death in Theresienstadt. His wife, Louise, died in Auschwitz.

Gutmann's daughter, Lili, and his son, Bernard, survived the war, elsewhere in Europe.

A half-century later, Lili Gutmann, and Bernard's sons, Nick and Simon Goodman, have filed suit to retrieve one painting, a monotype by Edgar Degas. They say the Degas is in the art collection of a Chicago businessman, Daniel Searle, who bought the painting for \$850,000 in 1987.

The legal battle, being waged in US federal court in Manhattan, weighs the rights of the heirs against the rights of a buyer - 50 years later.

"How do you balance that? It's not easy," said Searle's lawyer, Ralph Lerner. "It's clear here that we've got two innocent people, two victims," said John Merryman, a specialist in art law at the Stanford University Law School. "The issue is how we choose between them."

The untitled monotype, overpainted in pastel by Degas has come to be known by its description as "Landscape with Smokestacks."

Gutmann contacted the firm that owned the Paris warehouse where the art had been stored. They were informed that the Rosenberg Action Team, which had looted art from Jewish families throughout the Nazi-occupied areas, had seized the Gutmann collection, according to papers filed in the Goodman lawsuit.

Among the proof were three black-and-white photographs of Gutmann's Impressionist works. The photos secretly had been taken by Rose Valland, a curator at the Louvre who managed to keep a chronicle of the plundered art the Nazis brought to Paris.

The Gutmann children then notified Dutch, French and German authorities, as well as Interpol, in an attempt to retrieve the stolen art.

"All three governments agreed that the paintings were not in Europe, and then the Germans offered a claim for loss of paintings," Goodman said. In 1964, the German government paid the Gutmann heirs about \$40,000 for five paintings.

The authorities said the art was probably behind the Iron Curtain, in East Germany or Russia. "They sort of accepted that," Goodman said of his father and aunt. But, he said, Bernard Goodman, living in Europe, kept looking for the art until his death in 1994, "turning over every stone in Europe."

It was only after their father's death that Nick and Simon Goodman, both citizens of Britain living in Los Angeles, learned from their aunt of the stolen paintings. At the same time, Russia was celebrating displays of Nazi trophy art, and it seemed possible that the Gutmann paintings might be uncovered.

The Goodmans got in touch with Willi Korte, who tracks art stolen by the Nazis. Goodman recalled that "Willi said, 'Maybe the paintings didn't go east; they went west.'"

Beginning a search of American museum and auction catalogs, Goodman found a reference to a Gutmann Renoir in a 1969 catalog. "Willi was right," Goodman said. "They went west."

The Goodmans quickly tracked the Degas to Searle after finding the painting listed in a catalog from a 1994 Metropolitan Museum of Art exhibition.

Lerner, Searle's lawyer, said the Gutmann heirs failed to prove "due diligence" in their search for the Degas, because they had sufficient time to claim the painting, which had been exhibited and published several times in the US in the last three decades.

"If the Goodmans were searching for this item, why didn't they find it?" he said in an interview. "They have to prove that [Gutmann] owned it and that he didn't sell it prior to his death in the camps," Lerner said, suggesting that the Gutmann heirs produce a receipt. "The Nazis kept phenomenal records."

"The Goodmans were exceptionally diligent in looking for their losses," said the heirs' attorney, Thomas Kline of Washington.

"If you are told by three governments that the paintings have gone east, you do, as an ordinary citizen, tend to believe them," Goodman said, adding that once he learned of the theft and began working with Korte, the Degas was located quickly.

The lawsuit was filed after a year of fruitless discussions between Searle and the heirs of Gutmann, who had been a member of the family that founded the Bank of Dresden in Germany.

According to Goodman, Searle, scion of the Searle Pharmaceutical Company, did not make an offer to settle the dispute.

Documents provided by Searle, intended to fortify his claim, also appear to bolster the Goodmans.

Emile Wolf of New York acquired the Degas in 1951, and Searle acquired the painting from Wolf in 1987, the Searle documents show.

But the Degas provenance and other documents also show that Hans Wendland, an art dealer who collaborated with the Nazis, acquired "Landscape with Smokestacks" after it had been stolen by Rosenberg. That, Goodman said, should have aroused Searle's attention and seemed to indicate that Searle did not ensure the Degas has a clean title.

"Their own provenance names Wendland, a notorious Nazi art thief. The OSS [US intelligence branch, Office of Strategic Services] deemed him a shady character who was notorious for shady art dealings," Goodman said. "So if the Searle provenance shows that, it's a red flag all over the place."

Korte agreed. If the name of the pre-war owner seems to be Jewish, French, Dutch or Belgian, and there is a gap in the provenance for the 1940s, and the painting reappears in a private collection in the 1950s, he said, that is a "red flag."

In general, though, a provenance's gap during the Nazi era does not always mean the art was expropriated. "There is at least an equal chance that the [owner] needed money and sold it," said Merryman, the Stanford professor, adding that it would be hard to confirm such a circumstance.

"Provenance is primarily a term that arises out of historic - not legal - interest," he said. "It's an intellectual, academic, art-historical kind of interest" that traces what has happened to a work of art since it was made.

The continuity of a provenance is rare, said Gary Vikan, director of the Walters Art Gallery in Baltimore. "To the extent that its history is known, it's like a pedigree for a dog."

A good pedigree can boost the artwork's market value, as buyers seek social status and what one dealer called "bragging rights" to own a work once housed by an earlier, famous owner.

A complete provenance is often unusual for many reasons that are routinely accepted in the art world and are unrelated to theft. Dealers do not like to identify the source of a painting, guarding it like a trade secret.

This often suits the owners. They may prefer not to announce to tax authorities or thieves that they have valuable art, or to broadcast through a sale that they may be financially strapped.

"Sometimes it's hard to be absolute in the history of the piece because buyers and sellers remain anonymous," said Searle's lawyer.

Friedrich Gutmann himself was not listed on the provenance of "Landscape with Smokestacks."

"He didn't want the publicity," Goodman said. "My aunt says he was very private about these paintings. That he didn't advertise the fact doesn't mean it was a shady deal. A lot of collectors just don't want the publicity."

While it is widely understood that there will be gaps in a provenance, Korte said certain gaps should set off alarms bells, and he fumed at how nonchalantly many overlook Holocaust-era gaps in European provenances.

He cited one example concerning an Old Master. "The provenance starts nicely in the 16th century. It was bought by a Polish king in the late 18th century. Then it stayed in one or two places in Poland until the 1940s, and then the provenance said, 'After 1945, German private collection.'" Korte said. "You read this and say to yourself, 'This is funny or stupid or terribly brave.'"

Venezuela takes pride in being the beauty-pageant capital of the world

BEAUTY pageants may be politically incorrect in some places, but in Venezuela they're a source of pride.

Two of the country's prettiest threesomes last year went on to be named Miss Universe and Miss World. The third, Carla Steinkopf, flies to Tokyo soon for the Miss International pageant.

Chalk the success up to Venezuela's exotic blend of races and a pageant organization dedicated to preserving the nation's reputation for world-class beauties. All eyes are on the winners, and recent reports that Miss Universe Alicia Machado must drop 9 kilograms in two weeks or lose her crown created a front-page stir.

At 1.7 meters, Machado weighed 51 kilograms when she won her crown in Las Vegas on May 17. She had dropped 8 kg. before the competition. Media reports say she now weighs 59 kg. and faces the royal boot.

Miss Universe pageant officials denied giving any ultimatum. "I just saw her yesterday and she looked beautiful," spokeswoman Wooten Lee said, after the alleged ultimatum was announced.

Machado's mother, Marta Fajardo, said her daughter had fear-wisdom-teeth removed a couple of weeks earlier, which made her face swell and may have given the impression she had gained weight.

Venezuelans have won nine top international pageants in the past two decades, more than any other nation. After Machado's victory, President Rafael Caldera proclaimed Venezuela "the world center of beauty." Twice - in 1996 and 1981 - Venezuela has held two of the three top titles in the same year. Only Australia (1972) and India (1994) managed that once.

This year, Venezuela's going for all three, and Steinkopf is confident she's the one to do it on October 27. "It's a huge responsibility I've got in my hands," the 23-year-old model said confidently. "I'm sure I'm going to be successful."

THE ANNUAL Miss Venezuela pageant has no trouble finding contestants. Thousands literally knock on the door of Miss Venezuela House, the Caracas home of pageant organizers.

"I always knew when I used to watch the contest on TV I was going to be there someday," said Adelaida Pifano, 24. She and 27 other young women vied for this year's title - and possible fame and fortune.

The vehicle that transforms pretty women into beauty queens is the Miss Venezuela Organization. Its mastermind is Osmel Sousa, a graphic artist who no longer designs his ideal woman in sketch pads.

Sousa recruits, selects and grooms Miss Venezuela contestants, who are not winners of regional beauty contests. He assigns the state banners - Miss Zulia, Miss Federal District - that they wear on the show. He finds candidates at parties, shopping malls, modeling agencies. He discovered Minorka Mercado, Miss Venezuela 1993, playing volleyball on Venezuela's Caribbean beaches.

"When I look at a girl, I look to see if she is well-proportioned and tall," says Sousa. The face, he says, needn't be perfect - makeup and plastic surgery always are options. Quite a few young women submit to plastic surgery. Most work it on the nose and breasts; liposuction smoothes the thighs.

Steinkopf, who has breast implants, said there's nothing



Contestants in the 1996 Miss Venezuela pageant show off their figures in Caracas.

wrong with a bit of plastic surgery. "If you want to arrange any detail... why not?"

Sousa also discounts criticism of surgically altering contestants. "A girl who puts on makeup also is fabricated," he said. Besides, he said, plastic surgery is common in most pageants. "I'm more sincere. I admit it."

The Los Angeles-based Miss Universe Pageant doesn't prohibit plastic surgery, but "they don't encourage it. They think women are naturally beautiful and don't need enhancing," said spokeswoman Wooten Lee.

At Miss Venezuela House, contestants are sequestered for three months before the annual pageant. They are put on crash diets and work out in the gym for several hours a day. They are taught to walk, talk, sit, stand and dress in certain ways, how to apply makeup and how to answer pageant questions.

Few complain. Winning can be a ticket to a career in television, film, business and even politics - Irene Saez, Miss Universe 1981, is mayor of a Caracas municipality and polls show she is the most popular politician in the country, and some think she may run for president in two years.

Natural beauty is given some credit for Venezuela's success. Venezuelans are a blend of native Indians, former African slaves and Europeans from the conquistadors to refugees from 20th-century wars. "Venezuela has a great mix of races," Machado said. "That's why the girls are so pretty."

Pushing your children

PARENTING
RUTH MASON

ID like help in thinking about the balance between pushing kids and letting them go their own way when it comes to after-school classes. These classes are supposed to be fun but they also have the potential to develop talents and abilities that school doesn't tap.

My 12-year-old daughter takes jazz dance, among other things, and she is really talented. I saw an ad for an advanced dancing class for her age group in town and when I asked her if she'd like to go she said, "No, I'm happy where I am."

My other daughter is good at gymnastics and her teacher asked her to be on a team. But she is starting junior high and grades are becoming more important. In short, how much excellence do you push for and at what expense?

Charlotte Slopak, clinical psychologist and psychoanalyst, answers:

It's natural to want the best for your children, to give them every opportunity for enrichment. On the other hand, kids need to be kids, to have some free time and to go at their own pace. Parental expectations may be connected to your wanting your child to have opportunities you missed when you were a child. They may be based on an unrealistic idea of superior performance, without taking into account your child's needs, skills, limitations and feelings.

If you had a shy child who only wanted to sit in front of the television, then you would need to encourage her to join some after-school activities and even give a push in that direction. You seem to have a busy child, involved in several activities. If she is happy, then it would appear that the idea of an advanced class is more for you than for her.

With respect to your older daughter, does she want to be on the team? Does she realize all the time and effort involved? Being on a sports team can be a valuable life experience for a child, but only if she herself is really motivated.

I don't know if this applies to your family, but grades in the seventh grade are an important factor in admission to a competitive high school, so it may be advisable to cut back on activities that year. By the middle of the eighth grade, she can again become involved in her "informal education."

Children sometimes want to quit an after-school activity right away, and you should encourage them to stick it out for a few months. The child will usually need a while to adjust, and will gradually develop a more positive attitude. If she still wants to quit after giving it a fair chance, it is reasonable to let her stop.

Offer and encourage - children may need a push - but distinguish between the needs and interests, talents and maturity of your child, and your own interests and expectations.

Israel Airports Authority
Head Office - Department of Border Terminals

NOTICE TO VACATIONERS USING THE TABA BORDER CROSSING

The Israel Airports Authority has made every effort to provide the best possible service to people going to Sinai over the holidays. In order to ease the border crossing, vacationers are advised to prepare the necessary documentation in advance:

- Passport, valid for at least 3 months (passports cannot be extended at the crossing)
- Army exit permit or stamp in your passport (this also applies to draftees waiting to go into the army)
- Border crossing fee, which may be paid at the terminal or at the following branches of the First International Bank and Postal Bank:

Postal Bank	Tel Aviv: Jerusalem: Beer Sheva: Beit She'an: Ben Gurion Airport: Terminal	Mikve Yisrael Branch - 7 Rehov Mikve Yisrael Main Branch - 23 Jaffa Road Shimon's Branch - 19 Rehov Pal-Yam Sderot Hanesetim Carion Ha'adom Branch - Sderot Hatesarim Rehov Helelsedrut, Municipality Building	First International Bank	Tel Aviv: Dizangoff Square Jerusalem: Main Branch - 10 Rehov Hilel Haifa: Main Branch - 3 Rehov Habaridim Beer Sheva: S3 Rehov Hatzimot Eilat: New Tourist Center Tiberias: Rasseco Square Afula: Main Branch - 23 Hativva Yehsha
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Save time and effort! Pay in advance - and save waiting in line.

Travelers entering Sinai with their cars are advised to bring an English translation of their driving license (obtainable at Memsal branches all over the country) and comprehensive insurance issued especially for Sinai.

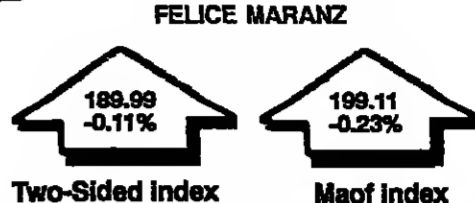
- Mobile phones may not be taken into Egypt. The phones can be left at the Israeli terminal (fee charged).
- A new immigrant's laissez-passez is not valid at the Egyptian terminal and the holder must also show a foreign passport.
- Only private passenger cars and vans are permitted to enter Sinai, and the vehicle owner must be present.
- Commercial vehicles, diesels, 4 wheel drive vehicles, rented vehicles and trucks are not allowed into Sinai.
- Those intending to enter Sinai without their car are advised to leave it in a parking lot in Eilat (e.g. Egged or Shekem) and travel to the terminal by bus. There are no parking facilities in the terminal area.
- Those taking pets with them must bring health certificates for the animals.

No weapons or ammunition are allowed into Egypt.

The Management of the Airports Authority wishes all travelers a Happy New Year. Spokesperson's bureau

Shares drop, halt four-day rise

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET



STOCKS were little changed yesterday following four sessions of gains as chemical companies retreated after rising on Monday amid news of a potential merger. Maktsheshim Chemical Works fell two percent and Agan Chemical Manufacturers Ltd. dropped 0.25%.

Dollar romps, weak Dow blunts rallies

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar romped ahead against the mark yesterday and European bourses also prospered, with British blue chips breaking records, but share rallies were blunted by a weaker Wall Street start.

The dollar sneaked above the psychological 1.50 mark barrier in early European trade. It continued to firm as the day progressed and a wave of fund buying propelled it toward 1.51.

It is now trading above levels on July 16, when dollar/mark suffered its biggest one-day drop this year as New York share prices crashed.

The dollar rally began on Monday after Bundesbank council member Ernst Welteke said there was room for further German interest rate cuts if M3 money supply growth continued to slow.

His comment knocked the mark across the board, and the dollar was further spurred overnight by Wall Street's strong Monday performance and a jump in Treasuries.

On the bourses, leading shares in London, Frankfurt and Paris all got an early leg-up by the overnight surge on the Dow, which posted its biggest one-day gain in over a month to close 1.3 percent up.

In morning trading yesterday, London's blue-chip FTSE Index jumped more than 20 points to a record 3,933.6, surpassing its previous record of 3,922.1 set on August 28.

However, after a weaker start on Wall Street, it fell back sharply to close just below its record.

Opinions are mixed as to whether the central bank will decide this time to raise or leave interest rates unchanged, perhaps until after the November 5 presidential election.

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ended lower yesterday on profit-taking after two straight sessions of large gains, but an inflation warning by a senior central banker rekindled fears that the Federal Reserve may be ready to raise interest rates.

Based on unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended off 6.66 points at 5,727.18 on Monday and Friday.

In the broader market, declining issues led advances by a narrow margin on moderate volume of 373 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Table of Tel Aviv Stock Market data including Commercial Banks, Industrials, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Trade & Services, and Oil Exploration. Includes columns for Name, Price, Change, and Volume.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of International Stock Prices listing various global companies and their stock prices, organized by region like New York, London, and Frankfurt.

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates against NIS.

NEW YORK STOCK MARKET

Table of New York market indexes including DJ Industrial, NYSE Composite, and S&P 500.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table of Israeli stocks listed in NY, including companies like Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, and others.

INTL MONEY MARKETS

Table of Dollar crossrates (US) for various currencies like Pound, Deutsche, and Swiss Franc.

Libor rates

Table of Libor rates for various maturities and currencies.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

INTL COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

London commodities

Spot market metals (US)

New York metal futures

London metal fixes

Table of New York metal futures prices for various metals like Gold, Silver, and Copper.

Vertical text on the left edge of the page, partially cut off, containing financial news snippets.

Ben-Yair bashes 'irresponsible, lazy media'

EVELYN GORDON

ATTORNEY-GENERAL Michael Ben-Yair lambasted the press at a seminar for jurists in Zichron Ya'acov yesterday, saying it is frequently irresponsible, unethical and lazy.

Ben-Yair opened his remarks by stressing the crucial importance of the press in a free society, which amply justifies the special freedoms the press enjoys. But at the same time, he noted, the media has tremendous power to set the public agenda – not only via columns and editorials, but also via its choice of what to cover and how prominently to play each story.

"I believe that every sector of Israeli society, irrespective of its world-view, has internalized the values of freedom of expression and freedom of the press," he said. "But it seems at times as if the press itself has not sufficiently internalized the recognition that its important role in society entails not only rights, but also obligations – professional, moral, ethical and legal."

Ben-Yair cited several sections from the Israel Journalists Association's code of ethics, such as the obligation to refrain from printing inaccurate or misleading information, the obligation to check facts before printing a story, and the obligation to quote accurately.

"If many of us are smiling now, it is certainly due to our memory of journalistic work which was far from meeting these criteria," he said.

While such lapses often stem from "superficiality, negligence or haste," he continued, the press also frequently allows itself to be manipulated by the government and other official bodies. Reporters are flooded with press releases and briefings, and they often take the easy way out by just publicizing these, sometimes without even checking the facts. But even if the facts are correct, he added, it is not clear that what

the spokesmen publicize are really the most important stories.

"The injury to the public [caused by such behavior] is not only due to the fact that the presentation of information is slanted according to the desires of an interested party," he said. "The danger... is that the press is being transformed from a body which investigates and exposes into a public relations agency. The mutual convenience of the reporter and the spokesman comes at the expense of the public's right to know."

Still another problem is the media's increasing sensationalism, Ben-Yair said, noting that while this is especially true of television, print journalism is not immune.

Two extensions of this quest for sensationalism are the wide coverage often given to fanatic fringe groups and the media's handling of terror attacks, he continued.

Ben-Yair stressed that he did not favor addressing any of these problems via legislation; they are problems that must be handled by the journalistic community itself.

In fact, he said, the one law he does advocate enacting is a Basic Law: Freedom of Expression, which would give constitutional status to freedom of the press, as well as to the right to speak, write, organize and demonstrate. De facto, he said, freedom of expression already has constitutional status, since the Supreme Court has ruled that it is implied by the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom. However, he said, it should also be given de jure status, as it is in most other democracies.

Because of the importance of freedom of the press, Ben-Yair said, he also opposes applying the rules of "public law" – such as the requirements of fairness, reasonableness and non-politicization – to privately-owned media outlets.



Suleiman Abeid is brought to the Supreme Court for his appeal hearing yesterday.

(Brian Remley)

Supreme Court hears appeal of Hanit Kikos's murderer

EVELYN GORDON

THERE is no evidence except his own confession to connect Suleiman Abeid with the rape and murder of Hanit Kikos, and an unsupported confession is not sufficient for a conviction, Abeid's attorney, Avidgor Feldman, argued to the Supreme Court yesterday at the opening session of Abeid's appeal.

Abeid was initially convicted of Kikos's June 1993 murder by the Beersheba District Court in November 1994, largely on the strength of his confession, even though Kikos's body had not been found. According to this confession, he buried the body in the Duda'im dump, where he worked.

In June 1995, Kikos's body was finally found in a drainage ditch some distance from Duda'im, and the Supreme Court ruled that this was a significant piece of new evidence, which merited a retrial. This past February, however, the district court reconvicted him in a split decision, and Abeid then appealed to the Supreme Court.

"There is no evidence... to support a single statement, a single fact in the appellant's confession," Feldman argued yesterday.

He noted that while several witnesses saw Kikos looking for a ride, no one saw Abeid or

even know whether she was wearing pants or a dress – one fact any rapist would surely know, Feldman said.

However, Justices Shlomo Levine, Eliezer Goldberg and Ya'akov Kedmi appeared unconvinced by Feldman's arguments. In particular, the justices noted, one witness saw Abeid at the Duda'im site at 10 p.m. the night of the murder – an hour when he would not normally be there. Abeid never provided an explanation for his presence, and in fact, lied about having been there, they said.

Feldman responded, however, that the nighttime visit to Duda'im was irrelevant if Kikos was never there, and the only evidence connecting her to the site was Abeid's false claim to have buried her there.

Rafi Kikos, Hanit's father, said afterwards that he was still not convinced Abeid had really murdered his daughter.

"I want to see facts, I want to see proof... but so far, I haven't seen any proof," he said. "But I believe in the Supreme Court, that in the end the truth will out."

The appeal will continue today with the prosecution's response to Feldman's arguments.

Winning cards and numbers

IN yesterday's daily Chance drawing, the winning cards were the king of spades, the nine of hearts, the queen of diamonds and the nine of clubs.

In last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 11, 23, 27, 35 and 41, and the additional number was 15.

WEATHER

Galilee 18-27
Haifa 22-30
Tiberias 20-25
Ashdod 18-31
Samaritan 21-31
Tel Aviv 22-30
Jerusalem 18-28
Beersheba 21-32
Dead Sea 27-38
Eilat 27-38

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

AROUND THE WORLD

City	High	Low
American	88	64
Berlin	62	48
Bombay	86	72
Brussels	66	52
Chicago	62	48
Copenhagen	62	48
Dublin	62	48
Hankow	86	72
Hong Kong	86	72
London	62	48
Los Angeles	86	72
Madras	86	72
Manila	86	72
Montreal	62	48
Mumbai	86	72
New York	62	48
Peking	86	72
Rangoon	86	72
Singapore	86	72
Sydney	62	48
Tokyo	86	72
Vienna	62	48
Zurich	62	48

Spanish monks get the goods on Israeli manuscript thieves

MADRID (AP) – The monks of Santa Maria de Montserrat won't be fooled twice.

In July, five Israelis visited the library at the 11th century Benedictine monastery, which sits atop a red sandstone mountain outside Barcelona. A few days later, librarians noticed that nine valuable manuscripts – hundreds of years old, written in Hebrew and Arabic – were missing.

On September 2, the Israelis returned to the library. The monks caught the police.

Police searched the Israelis when they left the monastery. One man, shoemaker Abraham Asur, had three manuscripts under his shirt, one in his briefcase and a tiny rare book in the pocket of his well-worn suit, said Barcelona Civil Guard spokesman Pedro Pizarro.

Police returned the four manuscripts and the book to the monastery.

The other nine manuscripts are still missing.

Asur, 37, was charged Monday with theft and freed on 2 million peseta (\$16,000) bail. He was believed to have returned to Tel Aviv but could be extradited to Spain as early as next month, police said. If convicted, he could be sentenced to three years in prison.

New head of Golan group praises PM

DAVID RUDGE

THE Golan Residents Committee yesterday expressed its full support for Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu's stance of pursuing peace with Syria while retaining Israeli sovereignty over the Golan.

"We who live near the border yearn for peace with Syria more than anybody else," said Avi Zeira, newly-elected chairman of the Golan Residents Committee.

It would be unacceptable, however, if the price for peace would be the evacuation of Jewish residents from the Golan and the uprooting of our homes," he said.

Zeira, 45, an electronics engineer who helped develop the Wind Energy project on the Golan and is a veteran resident of Katzin, was elected to replace former chairman Eli Malka, who resigned after joining the Third Way.

The residents committee yesterday issued a statement backing comments made by Netanyahu regarding the future of the Golan during his visit to the US.

Zeira said that the residents committee was "more than satisfied" with the government's stance, especially compared to what he described as the dark days of the previous government.

The GRC issued another statement yesterday welcoming MK Ehud Barak's decision to seek the leadership of the Labor party and "bring it back to the center" of Israeli politics.

NEWS IN BRIEF

- PA security head to meet with chief rabbis**
Gen. Nasser Yusuf, the Palestinian Authority's head of public security, is to meet with the chief rabbis next Tuesday at Hechal Shlomo in Jerusalem. Sephardic Chief Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron, who speaks Arabic, intends to converse with Yusuf in that language. The Chief Rabbinate said that Yusuf had asked for the meeting to wish the chief rabbis a happy New Year. *Itm*
- Six people get organ transplants**
Six people received organ transplants at three different hospitals yesterday. The organs all came from one man whose family decided to allow the donations. A 57-year-old Tel Aviv woman received a lung at Tel Hashomer's Sheba Hospital, and the other lung was transplanted in a 48-year-old man at Jerusalem's Hadassah-University Hospital, Ein Kerem. A heart, liver and two kidneys were transplanted into four patients at Petah Tikva's Beilinson Hospital. *Itm*
- Body of Israeli on 'Mineral Damper' identified**
One of the bodies found during the recent search of the ship *Mineral Damper* was identified in Seoul yesterday as that of steward Yehuda Hazan, the Transport Ministry announced. The ministry said that arrangements were being made to ship Hazan's body to Israel. *Haim Shapiro*

4 ONE-DAY TRIPS

with Shorashim & The Jerusalem Post Travel Club

Spend a day away-from-it-all on one of Shorashim's entertaining and enlightening English speaking trips. You'll meet your sort of people, visit off-the-beaten-track places and hear interesting and informative explanations from expert guides.

Space is limited so book early and avoid disappointment.

Sunday September 29 GALILEE - A DREAM COME TRUE
Beautiful sights, smart industry, innovative settlements, quality of life. These are some of the reasons that make the Galilee the envy of the country. We'll visit them all. The world-famous Iscar works, Kfar Havradim, the sculpture garden, Rosh Hanikra, the robots, the cable car, and the 21st century Yefen industrial park.
NIS 185 including lunch
Tour guide: Israel Shalem

Thursday October 3 THE CRATERS OF THE NEGEV
They come from all over the world to see this most unusual phenomena which reveals the amazing strata that make up the Machtesh Ramon, the big crater and the small crater. We'll visit them all, as well as Mitzpe Ramon, the small town nearby. All will be explained at one of the wonders of the world.
NIS 170 including lunch
Tour guide: Oded Feder

Tuesday October 8 REJUVENATING THE DEAD SEA
The lowest place on earth where the sinful cities of Sodom and Gomorra used to stand is now undergoing a revolutionary rebirth. Peace with Jordan has brought new connections. We'll visit the famous Dead Sea Works, the new Volkswagen magnesium project, Wadi Zohar and Mt. Sodom, the hotels in Ein Boker and more.
NIS 170 including lunch
Tour guide: Oded Feder

Wednesday October 16 ZICHRON YA'ACOV - REMEMBERING JACOB
Formerly called Zamarin, this beautiful town on the hills overlooking the Mediterranean was one of the prime achievements of the First Aliyah, thanks to the help of Baron Rothschild, and the birthplace of the Nili underground. In spite of its new prosperity, it retains the atmosphere of the Halutzim. We'll visit the winery, the Ohel Ya'acov synagogue (site of the first Orthodox/Reform debate), the Roman fortress of Shuni, Gan Hanadiv, and Beit Daniel.
NIS 180 including lunch
Tour guide: Ya'acov Shorer

The tour price includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations. Lunch as indicated. 10% off when you book all four tours. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

Reservations and further information:

SHORASHIM, POB 7588, 14 Rehov Abarbanel, Rehavia, Jerusalem 91074.
Tel 02-5666231 (9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.)
Ask for Romit, Tami or Varda.

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